

out a knowledge of the dead languages; but it certainly is improper that two-thirds of a young man's life should be occupied in this one branch of education—to be forgotten in most instances very soon after he engages in the busy avocations of life—to the exclusion of those other more useful species of knowledge which will better prepare him to act well his part as a man." This in 1851! We may not be so modern in our present views after all.

The committee urged in this address that something of Astronomy, Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, Geology, Electricity, and Galvanism as taught in some schools should be continued, but that a larger emphasis should be placed upon Architecture, the power of Steam and its application to machinery, various processes of Manufactures, Metallurgy, Natural History and Engineering. This we think, can in a great measure be done by devoting more attention to what is useful and less to what may be called ornamental—more to what will prepare a young man to succeed in the great business of life, and less to that which will enable him to shine in the walks of literature. The following sentence closed the address: "Every Mason may rest assured, that the Institution about to be established at Oxford will be one at which his son will have every advantage to be obtained at colleges of the highest character in the United States; and where, free from sectarian influence, he shall have instilled into his mind those principles of Morality, Brotherly Love and Charity which constitute the chief corner-stone of our beloved Temple."

Property was offered for sale at Oxford and a committee composed of R. W. Herndon, R. T. Taylor, W. W. Young and J. T. Littlejohn was appointed to acquire this property and secure from the General Assembly an act of incorporation for a "Masonic College." I am sorry that I have not been able to locate the charter and the list of original trustees who were to be 30 good men and Masons, and with one man from each lodge were to cooperate in working out the plans. At a time when there were only 65 lodges in the state an agent was appointed to solicit funds for the establishment of the college. St. John's College was decided as the name for the new institution and in 1853 E. H. Hicks deeded to the Trustees of St. John's College a tract of land of 109 acres near the corporate limits of the town of Oxford, at a price of \$4,480.00.

In 1855 the contract was awarded to John Berry, of Orange County, and J. N. Holt, of Warren County, for the building of said college, the contract totaling in its cost \$22,500.00. In the Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of December 1855 the Grand Master reports that on the 24th. of June of that year, the anniversary of the birth of St. John the Baptist, the corner-stone of St. John's College was laid with appropriate ceremonies by the Grand Lodge and that large assemblies numbering several thousand were addressed by Rev. Leonidas Smith of Warrenton. A copy of this address may be found at the library of the Grand Lodge.

A striking statement in the address of Brother Smith is recorded here. Referring to the St. John's College he said, "Let Masons then cherish this institution of itself. It will be a

refutation of all the slander that has been heaped on the fraternity. It will show what we are and what we aim to accomplish. It will be a standing evidence of our character, of our ability and of our benevolent intentions."

It is of interest also to note that the Grand Chapter of North Carolina cooperated in raising funds for St. John's College.

It is interesting also to note the dimensions of this building—"The building is 122 feet by 40 feet, the center is 63 feet, is four stories and a basement, contains 53 dormitories, a Chapel 40 feet by 60 feet, four recitation rooms, two society rooms and other rooms for chemical and other purposes." The four rooms suited for the accommodations of professors were provided each with a fire-place. A spacious chapel was provided, with a gallery around it, capable of seating conveniently 1200 persons. It was said in the report of the Board of Trustees in 1857 that the building, in architectural beauty, surpasses all specimens to be found within the border of the state.

The first financial agent was R. C. Maynard. Later L. A. Paschall, of Granville County, and S. S. Bryant were elected agents. Mr. R. W. Lassiter signed the first report of the Board of Trustees as its President.

The campaign for funds continued with opposition on the part of a great many who felt that it was an impossible task. From the very beginning a rough road seemed to be that which the young college should travel. Agents for collection of funds were appointed and each, as he went out, was instructed to refute the arguments advanced against the institution.

In 1857 it was reported that the building was completed at a cost of \$23,000.00 and that \$13,000.00 remained unpaid. The college was opened July 13, 1858, with Prof. Ashbel G. Brown, a distinguished educator in charge, and Mr. James Campbell, assistant. The college was for male students only. In two years another Principal and assistant undertook to carry on the work. The management of the institution was changed several times without result and the troubles of the college never came to an end. It was converted from one type of school to another, yet nothing brought success. A report of R. W. Lassiter, President of its Board of Trustees, to the Grand Lodge in 1860 indicated the college as doing splendidly with Thomas C. Tuley as Principal, with Joseph Venable as assistant. It was suggested that St. John's College at this time be made a military school, and again, as the war broke out, this was renewed with an effort to offer it to the State for this purpose, but such was never done. Then came the clouds of war and with the suspension of a great many of the Southern schools, St. John's College went the way of the rest; suspended its operations as the war came on.

The school was in debt with many creditors, one of whom was Mr. John Berry, one of the contractors in the beginning. At the close of the war Mr. John H. Mills, who was conducting a female school in Oxford, made arrangements to move into the building and had contemplated purchasing the same. He abandoned this idea and was succeeded by Rev. J. H. Phillips, and he in turn by Rev. C. B. Riddick, whose last session ended in 1871. In 1868 the property was sold under a mortgage